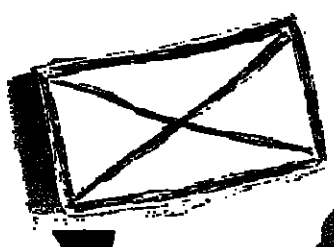


2, 1993
lected
rn

Russian hardliners assail START II
MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told lawmakers Tuesday that rejecting START II could revive Russia's besieged fortress status as a nuclear superpower. Speaking on the first day of legislative hearings, Mr. Kozyrev defended the landmark agreement that would cut the number of Russian and U.S. long-range nuclear missiles by two-thirds over the next decade. The treaty faces a difficult fight in Russia's Supreme Soviet, which is dominated by pro-communists elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union. The hearings are expected to continue for about two months, but could be delayed as lawmakers concentrated on domestic political turmoil. Hardline lawmaker Iona Andronov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Committee for International Affairs, said the treaty's provisions were unfair. Its implementation would put Russia and its former allies into "a subservient position" to the United States, he said. "The START II treaty does not correspond to Russia's national and state interest."



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عربية
عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Volume 17 Number 5248

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1993, RAMADAN 10, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Danese detained UAE released

KHARTOUM (AP) — Two Danese were detained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for six days, but were released Tuesday after they were tortured during their imprisonment. Since 1990 Gulf war, in which Sudanese supported Iraq, relations between Khartoum and the United Arab Emirates have been strained and several have been arrested and deported by the UAE government. On returning to Sudan, they claimed they were tortured during detention. In the latest incident, the government's Sudan News Agency said two Danese had returned home after being held in the UAE. The four were arrested Jan. 3 in connection with alleged contacts with Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist movement. They were not officially charged.

Iran minister survives no-confidence vote

Tehran (AP) — Iran's minister of transportation, Mohammad Saeedi-Kiya, Tuesday escaped a vote of no-confidence by parliament, where he was summoned to explain recent air and train disasters in which 205 people were killed. Tehran Television reported. The broadcast said Mr. Saeedi-Kiya received 121 votes in favour, and the same number against him, from the 270-member chamber. The rest of the deputies were either not present or abstained. The minister would have been impeached only if two-thirds of the deputies voted against him.

Iran's state security forces get new intelligence chief

Tehran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader Tuesday appointed Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a middle-ranking officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, as head of intelligence for the internal security forces. Naqdi was appointed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's spiritual leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, to head the "security and information" section of the "disciplinary forces." The forces control state security, including drug enforcement and police. The radio said Mr. Naqdi was an officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the country's main fighting force, and that Khamenei's decree promoted him to the rank of brigadier general. It gave no other details about him, and little is known about Mr. Naqdi, who has not figured among the country's top brass. The radio also did not give any information about Brigadier-General Reza Sefolahi, who was appointed head of security and intelligence by Ayatollah Khamenei in April 1991. It was not clear whether Mr. Naqdi would replace him or work with him. Mr. Naqdi's "transfer" is somewhat artificial, since the disciplinary forces are part of the guards corps.

Suspected extremist shot in Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — A policeman Tuesday shot and wounded a suspected Muslim extremist while searching his house for arms. Police said a police official said the incident occurred at the town of Manfalut just north of the Muslim fundamentalist hotbed of Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. The official said that Captain Ashraf Dahsi, while he was searching his house for weapons and ammunition, "The official said, Alameddin was hit in the arm and leg and taken to hospital, he added. The informant said Alameddin was suspected of providing money and arms to the extremist Al Gamaa Al Islamiya. The group wants to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and replace it with an Iran-likeocracy. It traditionally targeted police and Christian troops but last year began attacking tourists. Muslim extremists have claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a Cairo office space last Friday that killed three people, including a Swede and a Turk. Two Americans, a Frenchman and a Canadian were among the wounded.

Palestinian, settler killed amid army siege of Gaza Strip

Combined agency dispatches
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A 75-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by an Israeli settler in Arab Jerusalem and another Israeli was killed in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, hours after the Israeli army sealed off the coastal strip after the fatal stabbing of two Israelis.
The elderly Palestinian, identified as Jumah Abdul Aziz Misk, was shot and killed by an Israeli settler whose car was allegedly stoned in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood of Arab East Jerusalem, reports said. Mr. Misk was reported dead on arrival at Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital.
Elsewhere in Gaza, three Palestinians were wounded when soldiers opened fire to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators in Khan Yunis, Israeli reports said. Israeli radios said the Israeli man killed Tuesday was about 40. They said he apparently made a wrong turn and approached the Rafah refugee camp, which is near the border with Egypt.
The victim was both stoned and shot, according to the radios and an official at Gaza settlers council, who spoke on condition of anonymity.
The radios said several bullet casings from a Kalashnikov rifle were found at the site of the 2:30 p.m. (1200 GMT) attack.
The army confirmed only that a civilian had been killed and said it was checking further.
Soldiers imposed a curfew on Rafah, which is home to about 90,000 Palestinians, and launched searches, Arab reports said.
The attack occurred nearly 12 hours after soldiers imposed a closure order that blocked at least 35,000 Gazans from reaching jobs in Israel.
The army said the Erez crossing from Gaza into Israel was shut to Palestinian traffic at 3:00 a.m. (0100 GMT). The measure was one-way and did not prevent Israelis from entering Gaza.
It was not known how long the Israeli closure measure would last, but the Haaretz daily said it was expected to be lifted in several days.
Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator to U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, condemned the closure as unfair since about half of Gaza's work force is employed in Israel.
"The closure goes along with the usual Israeli attitude of imposing collective punishment which certainly is going to create all kinds of difficulties, mainly economic ones, for the people in the Gaza Strip," Mr. Abdul Shafi said.
A statement from the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Tunis accused Israel of trying to starve the Palestinians through the closure.
An army statement Monday said the Gaza Strip was being closed to examine entry permits and prevent violence between Arabs and Jews.
In deciding on the closure Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also is defence minister, dismissed calls from right-wingers for an indefinite, blanket closure or an Israeli boycott of the Middle East peace talks.
"The peace talks have to take place because in them lies the medium and long-term solution," he said.
"First of all, the purpose of this closure, which is for a few days, is to try to reexamine several areas regarding checks and procedures at the roadblocks," Mr. Rabin said Monday.
"There is no intention to make this a long-term closure."
The attack sparked a heated debate on the future of the Gaza Strip. Israeli radio stations questioned public figures and took calls from the public all day on the question of Gaza.
Members of Rabin's Labour Party and other leftists said only a political settlement to the Israeli-



Israeli soldiers watch Palestinian workers as they return home to the occupied Gaza Strip after the strip was sealed off Tuesday (AFP photo)

Hamas denies rejecting U.S. plan, will abide by majority decision

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas Tuesday denied rejecting a six-point U.S. proposal to resolve the expellee crisis and said if the majority of the Palestinian people wanted to go ahead with the peace process Hamas would respect their wishes and stop its attempts to break off Palestinian peace talks with Israel.
"We neither accept nor reject the six-point plan of (U.S. Secretary of State Warren) Christopher," Hamas representative in Jordan Mohammad Nazzal told the Jordan Times. "We are saying that the peace negotiations should not be linked with the immediate implementation of U.N. Resolution 799."
Mr. Nazzal said three of the six points included in the deal proposed by Mr. Christopher were "irrelevant" to the immediate implementation of Resolution 799.
"Why should we approve of irrelevant statements? There is no need. Israel should announce that it will no longer carry out expulsions or transfer policies. That is the single most important point along with the implementation of Resolution 799," Mr. Nazzal said.
Mr. Nazzal confirmed that his movement would continue to oppose the peace process regardless of whether Resolution 799 was implemented or not. He said that the only condition under which Hamas would stop actively opposing the peace process would be in the "framework of a democratic Palestinian political arena in which the majority (of the Palestinians) voted in favour of the process."
Mr. Nazzal said, however, that Hamas was not contemplating continuing discussions with the PLO leadership over joining the Palestine National Council (PNC) any time in the near future.
"For the moment the issue of our joining the PNC has been shelved until further notice," said Mr. Nazzal, who was one of Hamas representatives to engage in a PLO-Hamas dialogue in Tunis and Khartoum in December.
Asked what conditions Hamas now puts on its joining the PNC, he said that "democratisation of the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee is of primary concern to us." Mr. Nazzal said if the PLO was to democratised "we would join today."
Any decisions made by a "free PNC would be binding to us, including participation in the peace process," he said.
He said Hamas would participate in any elections in the occupied territories provided that "they were not linked to the peace process." Hamas will not categorically rule out its participation if the elections were linked to the peace process but such "decisions have not been made yet," he added.
PLO officials close to Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that the PLO leadership was "in no hurry to include Hamas in the PNC at this stage."
"Right now that would be a

(Continued on page 5)

Shells land near exiles' camp in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded Tuesday near a U.N. peacekeepers' vehicle in South Lebanon and artillery shells crashed around the camp where nearly 400 Palestinian expellees are stranded. No casualties were reported.
Meanwhile, civilians engaged in fist fights with members of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah to demand a halt to the use of their villages as launching pads for attacks on Israel.
Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the bomb attack took place at 2:30 a.m. (0030 GMT) near the village of Qlaile, 10 kilometres south of the port of Tyre.
Mr. Goksel said the blast inflicted damage on the armoured personnel carrier, which carried five soldiers of UNIFIL's Fijian battalion.
He said investigation showed that the attackers "came from Qlaile village. Obviously the UNIFIL vehicle was the target, but we don't know why."
Qlaile is a village in the western coastal sector of South Lebanon, where both Hizbollah and the mainstream Shiite Amal movement have influence.
Police said Israeli gunners or their militia allies inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon fired 11 mortar rounds, all falling only a kilometre away from the evictees' camp just north of the zone.
They said the bombardment, which renewed around noon (1000 GMT), targeted the supply route that the evictees and sympathetic villagers have been using to replenish the exiled men with food and medical stocks.
None of the men, expelled by Israel Dec. 17, was hurt in the barrage.
The Israeli army confirmed that the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened fire in the area "when they spotted suspicious movement. They opened fire and then stopped."
Meanwhile the evictees' spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, praised the killing of two Israelis in Tel Aviv Monday by a Palestinian armed with two knives.

(Continued on page 5)

'Tehran buying up ex-Soviet nuclear stores'

BOON (AP) — Iran has been snapping up nuclear stores thrown into the black market by the break-up of the Soviet Union, a news magazine reported Tuesday.
"Almost every time in the last year there was an attempt to sell radioactive material from the ex-Soviet Union, interested parties from Iran were present," the weekly Stern quoted an unnamed expert at the federal intelligence service as saying.
The news magazine released in advance a synopsis of the report appearing in Thursday's editions.
Stern said there were more than 600 weapons dealers or agents in Germany, Switzerland and Austria working for Iran, most of them in Germany. It said there were 200 "front companies" worldwide helping the Iranian nuclear effort, again most in Germany, but that government officials thought the figures were probably higher.
Syria and Libya were also trying to up ex-Soviet stores of radioactive material, Stern said, but "Iran is far and away the craziest."
The magazine also said North Korea was "a de facto nuclear power" and quoted a report from Russia's secret service, which claimed that last year 56 kilograms of plutonium were smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to North Korea.
It claimed that India and Pakistan were "on the verge of nuclear war" in early 1990 over Kashmir. Stern quoted Ronald Lehmann, a U.S. armsaments official, as saying, "Thank God, no one knew how close we really were to that."
Stern also claimed that contrary to public statements, Russia would continue nuclear weapons testing. It cited a secret decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to prepare to continue nuclear testing on an island in the Arctic Ocean.
Iran's defence minister meanwhile accused the United States of demonising Tehran in an effort to alarm regional countries and sell them weapons left over from

(Continued on page 5)

Saddam: Iraq wants better ties with U.S.

ROME (R) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein said in a television interview Monday he would be willing to improve relations with the United States if Washington shared the same feeling.
"Iraq is ready to establish a new relationship with the United States if it is ready to do the same," the Iraqi leader said.
President Saddam was interviewed by an American journalist in Baghdad. Italian state television, which showed the interview Monday, said it was the first time it has been broadcast.
Asked what he would say to President Bill Clinton if the U.S. president was in the same room, President Saddam replied: "I will tell him what I think when he is sitting here in front of me."
He also said he hoped Mr. Clinton would succeed in winning a good reputation in the world.

U.N. inspectors pile pressure on Iraq

The head of a new U.N. inspection team heading for Iraq said Tuesday he would increase pressure on Baghdad to name the foreign suppliers for its nuclear weapons programme.
Dimitri Periccos, a Greek scientist, leads a team of 24 nuclear experts to Baghdad Wednesday on an eight-day inspection.
He said he would press for supplier details and check about 24 sites, including some new suspected locations, for nuclear-related activity banned since Iraq lost the war over Kuwait in 1991.
Identification of Iraq's suppliers of equipment for its nuclear, chemical, ballistic and biological weapons programmes is one of the most important remaining demands the United Nations has before lifting economic sanctions on Baghdad.
The Periccos said he would refuse Baghdad's demand for a complete list of questions about its supply network.
After nearly two years of refus-

Kuwaiti lawmakers propose matawa panel

KUWAIT (AP) — Five Islamist lawmakers have proposed a committee to protect Islamic religious values in the emirate, press reports said Tuesday. Arab Times, an English-language daily, said the committee would spread good values through "gentle advice" and fighting alien traditions and customs that contradict Islamic teachings and traditions. According to the draft law published by the paper, members of the committee will not patrol the streets with whips to make shopkeepers close down during prayer time or forcing women to cover their hair, something akin to the role of the matawa in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. It passed by the parliament and approved by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the committee would include 15 members: Seven representatives of government ministries and eight members of the public. The draft said they would receive complaints from the public, relay them to the concerned government agency and follow up on measures taken by the government in that regard. Nineteen out of the 50 parliament members are Islamists, an unprecedented number in the legislature's history. Kuwait witnessed a return-to-religion movement during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation and after liberation.

Jordan surprised by U.S. travel warning

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials Tuesday expressed bewilderment at an American statement warning American citizens against "terrorist" threats in the Kingdom.
Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif asserted there was no fear for tourists and residents in the country, saying that Jordan "is absolutely one of the safest places in the Middle East."
"There is absolutely no reason for them to fear anything here," he told the Jordan Times Tuesday.
The U.S. State Department Monday warned Americans in Jordan against "heightened threats at this time of terrorism," saying information available to the U.S. government "suggest" a threat to Americans in the country, especially those travelling by bus.
U.S. embassy sources in Amman declined comment.
"(The statement) is puzzling," Mr. Sharif said. "I don't see any reason for it."
While government officials would not comment on the motives behind the warning, a political observer who requested anonymity said the U.S. might be fearing repercussions for its failure to deal properly with the question of Palestinian expellees.
The United States initially supported U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate return to the occupied territories of about 400 Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon by Israel in December, but it later brokered a separate deal with Israel that many in the region say falls far short of implementing the resolution.
The U.S. did not do enough to secure the return of the expellees and allowed Israel to get off the hook, said the observer. Accordingly, it is afraid of a reaction, he said.
American citizens interviewed

(Continued on page 5)

Federal agents brace for showdown with Texas cult

WACO, Texas (AP) — Federal agents sent in more firepower overnight as a bloody standoff with a religious cult entered a third day, but they said there was no rush to storm the compound. Six more children left at dawn Tuesday.
A convoy of 25 trucks, cars and vans carrying agents in riot gear moved in Monday evening as onlookers were ordered out, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sent its elite hostage rescue team to the scene.
But authorities refused to say how long the 400 law enforcement officers massed outside the fog-shrouded compound were prepared to let the standoff with cult leader David Koresh and an estimated 75 followers, including some British citizens, drag on.
"There's no rush on something like this. You have to take your time," Ted Royster, special agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BAITF), said Tuesday. "You want to save as many people as possible."
Authorities talked by telephone periodically with cult members Monday, a day after a raid by about 100 BATF agents erupted in gun battles that killed four agents and two Koresh followers, one reportedly his two-year-old daughter.
The talks continued with Mr. Koresh early Tuesday, Mr. Royster said. He did not know Mr. Koresh's physical condition.
Mr. Koresh, the 33-year-old messianic leader of the Branch Davidian sect, told a radio station he had been gravely wounded Sunday. As of early Tuesday, Mr. Koresh — who says he is Jesus Christ — had not been publicly heard from since 2 a.m. Monday.
Meanwhile, in London, the British Foreign Office said it had informed American authorities of the names of at least 14 British men, women and children who moved to the cult's headquarters in recent months following a call from Mr. Koresh. The office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom, said up to 50 Britons may be involved with the cult.
The Seventh-Day Adventist church said about 20 of its members, mostly from Nottingham and Manchester in northern England, became involved in the cult in 1980 after a visit by Mr. Koresh, then using the name Vernon Howell. British television said Mr. Koresh's followers also made a recruiting drive last year.

Budget

RENT A CAR INTERNATIONAL

WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT

MR. RAND DIA

HAS JOINED BUDGET TEAM AS

MARKETING & SALES MANAGER

SINCE MARCH 1st, 1993



A Somali child Tuesday walks past an American Marine guarding Mogadishu's 'green line' (AFP photo)

Officials target grass roots to bring Somalia back from ruin

MOGADISHU (AP) — The phone system was ripped out, water mains were dug up, electrical plants gutted and factories sold for scrap. The central bank was looted and blasted full of holes. How does Somalia even begin to rebuild?

Forget it for now, development officials say. With famine at bay, they plan to ask donor nations this month to fund local health, education and farming projects that will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Major projects will have to wait until rival factions can agree on a government, they say. Somalia has been rubber-stamped since dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was driven from power in January 1991 and the country descended into clan warfare.

"There's an enormous temptation in the absence of all these things to react with knee-jerk solutions," Larry de Boice, the U.N. Development Programme's (UNDP) deputy representative in Somalia, said Monday.

"We're looking at a series of smaller scale support activity," he said in an interview. A \$6-page U.N. draft proposal calls for \$253 million in aid this year to fund U.N. relief and development projects in Somalia. The final version is to be presented to the March 11 donor's conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

While \$133 million is earmarked for food supplies and care for refugees, the rest is aimed at getting Somalia self-sufficient again. Members of the U.S.-led coalition that ensured relief shipments since December are looking to scale back their military involvement.

"Once the emergency is over, you need projects to get

people back to work," said Cynthia Osterman, spokesman for care, one of several relief groups that would participate in the U.N. plan.

Care, World Concern and other groups would distribute food in exchange for work, the plan says.

Before the civil war, agriculture employed 62 per cent of working Somalis and was 65 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, she said.

The key to Somalia's recovery is livestock, which accounted for 80 per cent of the country's export earnings before the war, officials say.

Without vaccination and health checks, Somalis are forced to sell their cattle, camels and goats for less than market price to foreign traders who turn around and resell at a dramatic profit.

"Before the system's not in place, the Somalis are getting ripped off," Mr. De Boice said.

The draft proposal calls for a \$7.0 million programme by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for livestock programmes. In addition, the FAO would spend \$12.3 million for seed and farm tools.

While food shipments have drastically reduced hunger, Somalis face widespread outbreaks of malaria, whooping cough and measles, officials say, and health care is in a shambles. "Hospitals were looted and devastated," Mr. Osterman said. "Even before the civil war, medical care was available to only 27 per cent of the population."

The U.N. draft said that according to a September 1992 study, more than half of Somalia's estimated 354 physicians had left the country of 6.5

million people. The U.S.-led coalition and relief groups have reopened some hospitals, and the U.N. proposes spending \$23 million on health and nutrition, including creating 500 posts for local health care workers.

Water supplies remain dangerously contaminated. Bacter, 350 kilometres west of Mogadishu, one of the cities worst hit by famine, is getting food shipments. But a study in January showed only 14 per cent of the people there were getting potable water, Mr. Osterman said.

Like hospitals, most water systems, pumps and generators in larger towns were destroyed or looted. Up to 90 per cent of wells are out of service, many destroyed to ensure that opposing military forces could not find water, the U.N. draft says.

The United Nations wants to spend \$12.7 million to rehabilitate damaged wells, chlorinate water supplies and deliver drinkable water. Care plans to rehabilitate a canal for four villages.

The U.N. plan would also spend \$20 million on employment and \$7.6 million on rebuilding schools.

Individual generators provide electricity to homes, while the military and relief groups have relied on radios and satellite phones for communication.

With no immediate plans for a telephone network, the U.S. army has drawn up a \$20 million plan for cellular phones in Mogadishu with limited service in outlying areas, said Marine Colonel Kevin Kennedy, the coalition's liaison for humanitarian efforts.

The plan was submitted to the United Nations for consideration, he said.

Afghan leader seeks Islamic negotiators to end feuding

KABUL (AP) — The military chief of the embattled government asked Monday that a committee of Islamic scholars, lawyers and intellectuals be formed to help end the bloody feuding among Afghan factions.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Ahmad Shah Masood also said he was preparing a new offensive to crush Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the other chieftains who have battered Kabul with shells and missiles.

"Not one of them has taken on responsibility for the problems of Afghanistan. When they face problems, they jump in the jeeps and flee to Pakistan, but not one has shown any kind of compassion toward this country," he said.

Mr. Masood, defence minister in the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, spoke during a four-hour interview at his home, a former guest house of the communist government.

Mr. Masood also attacked Mr. Hekmatyar's foreign backers. He mentioned no countries by name, but seemed to be talking about Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, whose fundamentalists have sent Mr. Hekmatyar hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We have documents that show that these countries have been giving military and financial assistance to Hekmatyar," said Mr. Masood, pulling out identity

cards and other documents of Arabs killed last month fighting beside Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami rebels.

Pakistan and Saudi negotiators have been trying to broker an end to the bloodshed that has killed or wounded tens of thousands of people and destroyed much of the city.

Fighting began almost immediately in April, after a 14-year war ended with the ouster of the communists and victory for the Islamic factions.

Mr. Rabbani arrived Monday in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, for peace talks. Few believe any truce will last, though, because of the intense hatred between Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr. Masood.

"He is a man looking only for power and he will use any method to get it," Mr. Masood said.

"We want a political settlement worked out through negotiations," he said. "But if we have to fight, it will be a quick strike. We are preparing for the second round of fighting and we will make it a very short war."

Discontent has been growing in Kabul over Mr. Masood's reluctance to wipe out the long-range missiles and rocket launchers used by Mr. Hekmatyar's rebels.

On Sunday, after a two-week lull, rockets and mortars crashed into a market, a mosque and a huge apartment complex, killing at least 31 people, half of them

children.

After the attack, 200 to 300 demonstrators marched toward the presidential palace, shouting "Death to Rabbani, death to Masood."

Mr. Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami, and other dissident factions have showered the city with rockets and mortar shells for months.

In an interview with the AP last week at his mountain headquarters south of Kabul, Mr. Hekmatyar gave no indication the shelling would stop.

"We want peace, but the other side is not serious," he said. "In Kabul, you hear shelling. Here there is peace and quiet."

A nationwide assembly voted in December to make Mr. Rabbani president for two more years. But most of the major Muslim leaders accused Mr. Rabbani of paying off the delegates with bribes.

"We are ready to accept an international commission religious scholars, lawyers, intellectuals from the Islamic world to investigate these charges and we will accept their decision," Mr. Masood said in the interview with AP.

"If the commission finds any abuses, I will resign," he said.

Mr. Masood, leader of the best organised rebel force during the 14-year war, now commands a patchwork Islamic army that is defending Mr. Rabbani.

U.S. probing reports of new Iraqi 'repression'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States said Monday it was investigating news reports that Iraq had launched a campaign of repression against Shiite rebels in the southern marshes.

"There are press reports that talk about the killings of hundreds of Shiites by Saddam Hussein's armed forces. Some of them talk of a massacre," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"We're looking into those reports, as we look into all such reports, but at this point I'd say I'm not able to confirm any of the specifics at this time," Mr. Boucher said.

He said the pattern of "repression" was well documented and clearly violated United Nations resolutions that ended the Gulf war.

"There have been no major Iraqi military offensives recently, but the small scale military actions continue against the civilian population," he said.

Also, Iraq continues to impede the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian relief to all the Iraqi people, he added.

Mr. Boucher described "small-scale" military actions as "skirmishes, forays by small groups of Iraqi soldiers, certain amount of shelling and things like that."

Iraq said Sunday it would welcome visits by foreign reporters to its southern marshes. The offer came in response to a report in London's Observer newspaper saying Iraqi forces shelled villages every night and siphoned off water in an attempt to turn their refuge into a desert.

In Geneva, a U.N. investigation said Iraq had apparently executed hundreds of people from its southern marshes in "death camps" in recent months.

In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Max Van der Stoep also cited reports that Iraqi "agents" provoked internal dissent among the marsh residents "that reportedly led to 2,000 deaths in the fall of 1992."

Detainees from southern Iraq reportedly were transported in groups of up to 200 to death camps in the north, the report said. Another account spoke of hundreds of marsh residents being held in such camps, it said.

Farmers in nearby Kurdish-controlled areas said they saw busloads of people with southern Iraqi features arrive and heard gunshots on subsequent evenings, Mr. Van der Stoep said.

The former Dutch foreign minister called the allegations "extremely disturbing."

In an interview, Mr. Van der Stoep declined to elaborate on his sources but said the "mass executions" allegedly happened in recent months. He did not offer a total death count.

Mr. Van der Stoep's annual report to the commission, the top U.N. human rights watchdog now meeting in Geneva, also demanded that Iraq end its economic blockade of Kurdish areas in the north and southern Shiite regions.

Iraqi Kurds may not survive the next winter because they depend on the government to let through international humanitarian aid and have cut down many fruit trees for firewood this winter, the report said.

Torture by Iraqi forces, including beatings, burnings and electric shocks, remained widespread in the past year, it said, citing "an all-pervasive order of repression" in which "innumerable violations" of human rights occur.

Mr. Van der Stoep urged Iraq to stop "interference in the religious activities" of its Shiites.

He said hardship is rising all over Iraq because of U.N. sanctions. But as in earlier reports, he said the deteriorating "humanitarian situation" was the government's fault.

He urged Iraq to accept a U.N. plan for selling oil under international supervision to pay for humanitarian supplies and renewed an appeal for Iraq to open up to foreign human rights monitors.

Sudan says Egypt seeks military end to Halaib row

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler has accused Egypt of seeking a military solution to a border dispute and warned that the problem could wreck bilateral relations.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said Egypt was not serious about reaching a negotiated settlement on the Halaib area and "has decided to solve the Halaib conflict with Sudan militarily."

He spoke in an interview with the Iraqi News Agency that was aired on state television Monday night.

Gen. Bashir repeated charges that Egypt has massed troops at the border and set up new checkpoints. He also said the Egyptian government has begun exploring for minerals and water in Halaib and placed new border markers.

"Those measures would not only harm, but would blow up relations between the two countries," Gen. Bashir said.

Halaib is a triangular area overlooking the Red Sea which both countries claim. Egypt says in 1899 agreement with Britain, then controlling Sudan, set the Egyptian-Sudanese border along the 22nd Parallel. Halaib lies north of that line.

Egypt in 1902 gave Sudan administrative powers in Halaib because the majority of its inhabitants were Sudanese tribesmen. Cairo says that Khartoum has confused local administration with sovereignty.

The dispute, dormant since the late 1950s, flared up at the end of 1991 when Sudan granted a Canadian oil firm a concession for exploration offshore from Halaib. Egypt protested and the deal was scrapped.

A joint committee formed to negotiate a settlement held an inconclusive session last month in Khartoum. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted a source close to the talks as saying that the two parties discussed Egypt's "transgressions" in Halaib.

No date set yet for Mideast peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Richard Boucher Monday "we don't have a date yet" for the next round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

On February 25, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev issued a statement in Geneva saying they would invite the parties to a new round of talks during the month of April.

Noting there has been speculation based on religious holidays and calendars, Mr. Boucher told reporters that "until we've actually decided ourselves... I would steer you away from all speculation on any particular date."

While he was not aware of any specific conversations the secretary may have had with Middle Eastern leaders since Mr. Christopher met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharaa in Brussels Feb. 25, Mr. Boucher pointed out: "We have been in touch with all the parties to the talks through our embassies. We've had continuing discussions with them on the issue."

"And I think it's important to note in this context that as we approach the next round, we'll continue the discussions that the

secretary had on substantive issues and try to make sure that this next round can be as meaningful as possible," the spokesman said.

Mr. Christopher had extensive discussions during his February 18-22 trip to the Middle East. "He found that the parties were very much committed to the peace process, that they were interested in resuming negotiations as soon as possible," Mr. Boucher said. "Based on their statements, we think that they'll be able to participate when we do schedule the next round," he said.

The spokesman was asked to explain the "full partnership" role that Mr. Christopher pledged the U.S. would play when the talks resume. "It means engagement at all levels," he said.

The secretary was "actively involved" in the process, personally, during his trip, and he indicated that he and the United States intend to continue that involvement," Mr. Boucher explained. "But it also means that at other levels, too, we'll be actively engaged with the parties," he said.

Amnesty reports torture continuing in Algeria jails

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Tuesday that torture of prisoners by Algerian security forces, which virtually ceased after 1989, has become widespread again following declaration of a state of emergency last year.

"The organisation has received dozens of testimonies of torture and spoken to victims their families and doctors," the independent, London-based human rights group said in a report.

"Their testimonies show that the practice of torture in Algeria — which had been virtually eradicated after 1988 — resumed after February 1992, and dramatically increased during the last quarter of 1992," it said.

Algeria's five-member High Council of State took over presidential powers on Jan. 14, 1992 following the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid three days before.

The second round of general election voting which had been scheduled for Jan. 16 was meanwhile cancelled, blocking the probable overall election victory of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The front, which had emerged as winner of the first round of voting on Dec. 26, 1991, wanted to replace Algeria's secular, multiparty system with an Islamic state.

Violent demonstrations by supporters of the front broke out around mosques it controlled in the capital Algiers and other towns following the assumption of presidential powers by the High Council of State.

The committee decreed a state of emergency on Feb. 9, 1992, and on Feb. 7 this year renewed the state of emergency indefinitely.

The Amnesty International report said that since February 1992, over 9,000 suspected Islamic activists had been sent to desert internment camps without charge or trial. It said that more than 1,000 continue to be held in the camps.

It said Algerian security forces have killed about 300 people in the last 12 months, many in armed clashes.

"However, a significant number appear to have been innocent bystanders, deliberately killed while allegedly crossing police barriers, breaking the curfew or in other circumstances where they posed no threat of violence," the report said.

Britain tightening controls on arms, technology to Iran

LONDON (AP) — Britain announced Monday it is tightening controls on exports of arms and technology to Iran, which has been accused of developing a huge arsenal.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told parliament no export licenses would be granted for any items on international lists of proscribed military or atomic energy equipment, with two exceptions.

The exceptions were goods essential for the safety of civil aircraft and air traffic control systems, and radioactive material for medical equipment.

Export licenses would be refused for those exceptions "where there was knowledge or reason to suspect that it would go to a military end-user or be used for military purposes," Mr. Hurd said in a written reply to the House of Commons.

A Foreign Office spokesman later corrected: "This announcement doesn't extend the list of banned items but introduces more stringent guidelines for approving license applications."

voting on Dec. 26, 1991, wanted to replace Algeria's secular, multiparty system with an Islamic state.

Violent demonstrations by supporters of the front broke out around mosques it controlled in the capital Algiers and other towns following the assumption of presidential powers by the High Council of State.

The committee decreed a state of emergency on Feb. 9, 1992, and on Feb. 7 this year renewed the state of emergency indefinitely.

The Amnesty International report said that since February 1992, over 9,000 suspected Islamic activists had been sent to desert internment camps without charge or trial. It said that more than 1,000 continue to be held in the camps.

It said Algerian security forces have killed about 300 people in the last 12 months, many in armed clashes.

"However, a significant number appear to have been innocent bystanders, deliberately killed while allegedly crossing police barriers, breaking the curfew or in other circumstances where they posed no threat of violence," the report said.

NOTIFICATION

American President Lines, LTD. (APL) are pleased to announce the appointment of

M/S : International Shipping & transport Co. (ISTCO) .

as their new Shipping agent in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as of 1st. March, 1993 .

For More informations and customers service please contact our new Agent (ISTCO) at the following numbers :

Amman **Aqaba**
Tel. : 682797 / 698818 / 698810 Tel. : 319201 / 319202 / 319203
Tlx : 21838 Eagle Jo. Tlx : 62303 ISTCO JO.
Fax : 698810 Fax : 319203

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 42 Sur La Une
18:05 News in French
18:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 One Step Ahead
21:30 After us the Deluge
22:00 News in English
22:30 An American Love

PRAYER TIMES

04:41 Fajr
07:58 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:05 Dhuhr
15:05 Asr
17:30 Maghreb
18:55 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 625765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.
De la Sade Church Tel. 661757
Teromata Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 624932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 627691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be westerly fresh. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8 / 23
Aqaba 15 / 28
Deserts 9 / 25
Jordan Valley 12 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 49 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Salwan Daboubi 776751
Dr. Mahmoud Al Abadi 778259
Dr. Mahmoud Al Hadi 898787
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637460
Najati pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Salwan Daboubi 776751
Dr. Mahmoud Al Abadi 778259
Dr. Mahmoud Al Hadi 898787
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637460
Najati pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Salwan Daboubi 776751
Dr. Mahmoud Al Abadi 778259
Dr. Mahmoud Al Hadi 898787
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637460
Najati pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 637111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power 636361
Company 636361
RJ Flight Information 08-53220

QUEEN ALIA INTL. AIRPORT 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Zahra Maternity, J. Amn 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 627602
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 666171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 652209
Al-Muhsin Hospital 652209
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Rafaa, Al-Muhsin 777101/5
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775112/6
Army, Marj 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983233
Zarga National Hospital (09)903560
Dra Sina Hospital (09)983232
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
BIRZAT:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Bin Al Nafes Hospital (02) 77100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:00 Jeddah (RJ)
07:15 Cairo (RJ)
07:30 Cairo (RJ)
07:45 Jeddah (RJ)
08:00 Jeddah (RJ)
08:15 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)
11:00 Jeddah (RJ)
11:15 Jeddah (RJ)
11:30 Jeddah (RJ)
11:45 Jeddah (RJ)
12:00 Jeddah (RJ)
12:15 Jeddah (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
12:45 Jeddah (RJ)
13

U.S. makes 2nd drop; Muslims killed trying to get parcels

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Air force cargo planes sent more than 21,000 meals and half a tonne of medical supplies hurtling down into eastern Bosnia Tuesday in a second U.S. airdrop intended for cutoff Muslims in the area.

Again, it was not clear if the supplies reached their intended recipients.

Many bundles dropped Sunday night's first mission were said to have missed the target, landing mostly in territory controlled by Serb besiegers.

And one report Tuesday said some Muslims were killed by sniper fire trying to collect supplies dropped by the Americans Monday.

The unconfirmed report, passed on by a U.N. spokesman in Geneva, came from ham radio operators.

In all, six plane-loads of food and medicine have been parachuted into eastern Bosnia in the operation, which is being run out of Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany and was authorised by President Bill Clinton last week.

The most direct U.S. intervention so far in the Bosnian war, the airdrops aim to bring relief to embattled Muslims at minimum risk to American troops.

The C-130s dropping the supplies fly above 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) to reduce the risk of drawing anti-aircraft fire and, as another precautionary measure, have flown their missions at night.

Crew members said cloud cover helped hide them from view early Tuesday as three C-130s dropped nearly 19 tonnes of food and 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms) of medical supplies around

the town of Zepa.

As on Sunday night, no hostile fire was reported.

The last overland food convoy to reach Zepa, a town of 29,000 people, got there on Feb. 21 and it was designated a "high priority" location by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Agency spokesman Ron Redmond said Tuesday that ham operators in the area were reporting that some Muslims were killed early Monday trying to pick up food dropped between the eastern regions of Cerska and Konjic.

The first three plane-loads of food and medicine were dropped in that area overnight Monday, intended for the estimated 20,000 Muslims in Cerska, where aid had been cut off since the war broke out nearly a year ago.

Mr. Redmond said there was no way to verify the radio operators' reports. Bosnia's Muslim-led government in Sarajevo said Monday that the drop appeared an almost total failure.

Up to 10,000 refugees from the fighting in the Cerska area were reported cowering on the slopes of icy Mount Udrac Monday as Serb tanks stormed into the region. Hundreds died in fighting in that area Sunday, Bosnian radio said.

Mr. Redmond said Tuesday that the U.N. had received an urgent request from authorities in Cerska for an emergency medical evacuation of 1,500 people.

He said the United States was working with the Red Cross to try to send in a fleet of trucks to evacuate the wounded and seriously ill. No U.N. convoy has

reached Cerska since the war began.

The latest Serb advances in eastern Bosnia come as Muslim, Serb and Croat officials gathered in New York for another round of peace talks at U.N. headquarters.

The Serb offensive, launched about two weeks ago after Muslims recaptured some eastern Bosnian territory, might be an attempt to strengthen the Serbs' hand in the talks.

On Monday, Defence Secretary Les Aspin and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell issued a statement calling the previous night's airdrop "successful."

"We can confirm that many of the bundles landed in clear areas within the identified drop zone, which is in the area of Cerska," the statement said.

But a senior Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said only about one third of the bundles appeared to have hit the mark.

As night fell in Bosnia Monday, only one package had been reported found by Muslims some 30 kilometres northwest of Cerska, the Bosnian news agency BH Press said, quoting a ham radio report.

A Bosnian defence official in the government-held town of Tuzla said bundles with food and medical supplies fell on Serb lines in the rugged, inhospitable mountains around Cerska, an area where up to 20,000 Muslims are surrounded by Serb forces.

Gen. Ratko Mladic, commander of Serb forces in Bosnia, also said some of the aid landed in Serb held areas, "where it was

not intended."

"The Americans didn't get good marks on their first examination, so they should try again," said Murat Efendic, head of an association of eastern Bosnians as he monitored ham radio exchanges in Sarajevo.

Ismet Mustafic, a ham radio operator in Cerska, said Serb militiamen and tanks entered part of the region early Monday after a night's bombardment by artillery. Thousands of villagers fled to nearby woods, valleys and mountains, he said.

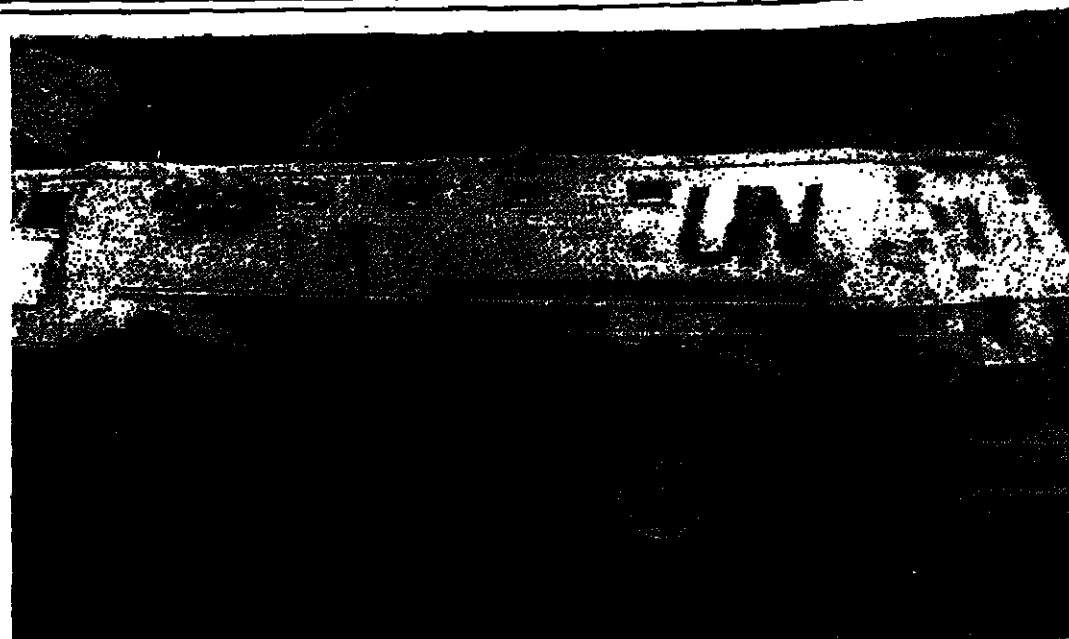
"Cerska is burning... they are attacking from all sides, on all lines," said Mr. Mustafic, adding that government forces would try to hold open a corridor toward Sarajevo so people could escape.

Serb troops reportedly overran seven villages outside Cerska on Sunday, Bosnian radio said Monday that 300 civilians were shot or burned to death in those villages, but the report could not be verified.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Croat forces said Monday they were enforcing a blockade of supply convoys for their estranged Muslim allies despite Bosnian government reports that it had been lifted.

The Croatian Defence Council (HVO), the autonomous Bosnian Croat militia force, said it was halting about half of the Muslim-led government army's traffic between the Croatian border and central Bosnia.

Muslims resent the HVO's transformation of southwest Bosnia where it predominates into a protectorate of neighbouring Croatia despite a large Muslim community.



Sarajevo youth throws a stone at a passing U.N. vehicle. The U.N. operation has long been unpopular in the city (AFP photo)

Angolan relief columns resume march on besieged Huambo

LUANDA (R) — Government relief columns are resuming their march on the besieged Angolan city of Huambo where at least 10,000 people have been killed in two months of fighting, state television said.

The television late Monday quoted military sources as saying the columns, which were being harassed by UNITA rebels, had observed a truce while attempts were made to resume peace talks in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

But the march was resuming because Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) failed to turn up in Addis Ababa, forcing abandonment of the talks.

"As nothing was achieved in terms of a ceasefire, the military columns will continue their march towards the city of Huambo," the television reported.

The rebels said fighting for Huambo was so intense that their

delegates were unable to depart for Ethiopia.

Angolan General Kunda Payame, who is directing a relief column from the coastal of Benguela, told Reuters that the weekend that his men would get to Huambo "at all costs" despite their small pace advance of at most 10 kilometres a day.

The battle for Huambo, once UNITA's headquarters in the central highlands, is the most symbolic in the war which resumed with unprecedented ferocity after Mr. Savimbi rejected his September election defeat and May 1991 peace accords which had ended 16 years of war.

The two sides have pounded Huambo to rubble and international aid workers believe the government estimate of 10,000 civilian dead is conservative.

Bodies lie decomposing in buildings and on the streets. Food and water are running out and trapped civilians face death every

time they venture out.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said Friday that urgent relief flights were needed to treat the thousands of wounded and bury the dead.

France regretted the cancellation of Angola peace talks Monday, saying "full responsibility" lies with UNITA rebels who failed to show up.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said everything must be done to "end the logic of war in Angola and create conditions for a true, lasting ceasefire."

On Sunday, U.N. envoy Margaret Anstee gave the rebels an ultimatum to send representatives to Addis Ababa by 9 a.m. Monday or the talks would be cancelled.

"We feel that UNITA bears full responsibility for the failure of this meeting," Mr. Bernard said.

Kohl visits Korea's cold war frontier

SEOUL (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl gazed over the world's last cold war frontier Tuesday and said he wanted to share his experience of national reunification with the divided people of Korea.

"The division of a nation is like cutting a living body in half," Mr. Kohl said.

But, Mr. Kohl, in South Korea on the final day of his five-day Asian tour, said he hoped to improve relations with Bonn.

He toured the village of Panmunjom, a tiny, official buildings on the heavily-fortified inter-Korean border about 40 kilometres north of Seoul.

The man who presided over German unification after the collapse of communism in the east climbed the "peace pagoda" to

get a view into North Korea, one of the world's most reclusive states and one of its last hardline Communist bastions.

There he was briefed on the area, the venue for periodic and mostly fruitless talks on unification between delegates of the two Koreas.

"Panmunjom is a very important and historic meeting place," Mr. Kohl said. "That is because we Germans know the pain of the Koreans and understand it much more than other nations."

Before his trip to the border, Mr. Kohl held an 80-minute meeting with South Korea's President Kim Young-Sam, who was sworn in only last Thursday. Mr. Kohl called on the North to be open about its nuclear programme.

"We urge North Korea to accept mutual nuclear inspection," Mr. Kohl said.

South Korea and its allies believe North Korea is close to building a nuclear bomb and that Pyongyang is dragging its feet over allowing inspections by international authorities or by southern officials.

"The reunification of Germany has given the Korean people, who still suffer from national division, hope and courage. It has taught us many things," Mr. Kim said.

South Korea is eager to learn from the experience of Germany since the two countries share a common fate in their division into capitalist and Communist nations. North Korea has kept itself isolated since the 1950-53 Korean war.

Congo gangway caves in; 146 drown

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (AP) — At least 146 people drowned when a gangway collapsed as passengers rushed to board a ferry boat, sending scores of people into the Congo River, police said Tuesday.

Fishermen, firemen, police and sailors fished bodies carried by the tide to the river bank at Brazzaville Port Tuesday morning. Ambulances took them to the main hospital morgue of this

central African nation.

The boat Matadi was preparing to carry expelled Zairians from Brazzaville, the Congo capital, across the river to the Zairian capital of Kinshasa.

The vessel, an old one belonging to the state-owned National Transport Service of Zaire, usually carries about 200 passengers.

But many more rushed to board it Monday when the gangway was let down, and it caved in under the pressure, police said.

Thirty-three bodies were retrieved by Monday night, and another 113 were found Tuesday morning, they said.

The ferries that ply the river between Brazzaville and Kinshasa are known for their only decks and smugglers who jump overboard just before docking to sneak their goods past customs officials.

way was let down, and it caved in under the pressure, police said.

Thirty-three bodies were retrieved by Monday night, and another 113 were found Tuesday morning, they said.

The ferries that ply the river between Brazzaville and Kinshasa are known for their only decks and smugglers who jump overboard just before docking to sneak their goods past customs officials.

But many more rushed to board it Monday when the gangway was let down, and it caved in under the pressure, police said.

Thirty-three bodies were retrieved by Monday night, and another 113 were found Tuesday morning, they said.

The ferries that ply the river between Brazzaville and Kinshasa are known for their only decks and smugglers who jump overboard just before docking to sneak their goods past customs officials.

Videotape may yield clues to New York blast

NEW YORK (AP) — A newly discovered videotape of cars coming and going at the World Trade Centre parking garage could yield clues to who planted the bomb that rocked the twin towers.

"It's being reviewed and copied," James Fox, head of the FBI's New York office, said Monday. "We'll know soon."

Investigators said theories for the bombing range from a terrorist attack to revenge by a disgruntled employee, and they're still unsure what kind of explosive killed at least five people and injured more than 1,000.

But investigators got a break Monday when they found a security videotape of vehicles entering and exiting one of three entrances to the underground garage before the blast.

Mr. Fox did not explain why the existence of the tape emerged only Monday, after days of authorities saying the garage had no security camera.

But he said it could be important because experts believe the bomb was so large it would "test the springs of any car or any van," making it conspicuous on the tape. Investigators have pegged the bomb at up to 1,500 pounds (680 kgs), depending on what type of explosive was used.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said police were also able to collect parking plates from the garage with the plates of each car written on them, and Mr. Fox said the studs have yielded leads. The port authority operates the Trade Centre.

Also, Mr. Fox said, witnesses described a pattern of suspicious movements of vehicles near the centre before the blast. "activity... that we find very interesting and that we're following up on."

President Bill Clinton sought Monday to "discourage" the American people from overreacting "to the World Trade Centre bombing."

Mr. Clinton, responding to questions during a visit to New Jersey, said it was not clear whether the bombing was a terrorist act because the investigation is incomplete.

But, even if it does turn out to have been an act of terrorism, Mr. Clinton urged Americans not to overreact.

"We've been very blessed in this country to be free of the kinds of terrorist acts that have gripped other countries," he said. "I would discourage the American people from overreacting to this."

Mr. Clinton said he was in close contact with the FBI and other agencies involved in the effort.

Mr. Clinton reiterated his sorrow and support for the families of the victims and those injured.

American aide leaves U.N., complains of mismanagement

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An outgoing U.S. official at the United Nations says the world body is "battered" by antiquated management, staff patronage and "almost surreal" budget practices.

Dick Thornburgh, the highest ranking American at the United Nations, warned in a report to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali that if the problems were not fixed, the world body would not be able to meet the increasing demands placed upon it after the end of the cold war.

Mr. Thornburgh, a former U.S. attorney general and Pennsylvania governor, stepped down Monday as undersecretary-general.

He said the U.N. managers lack the power to reward superior performance and to sanction substandard performance. He reminded Dr. Ghali of his recommendation to appoint an inspector general as a permanent watchdog against abuse.

The U.N. Department of Administration and Management, where he was assigned to fight bureaucratic excess and corruption. He had served on a one year contract, which ended Monday.

In his report, Mr. Thornburgh criticised personnel practices that lead to "too much 'deadwood' doing too little work and too few good staff members doing too much."

He said U.N. managers lack the power to reward superior performance and to sanction substandard performance. He reminded Dr. Ghali of his recommendation to appoint an inspector general as a permanent watchdog against abuse.

The U.N. Department of Administration and Management, where he was assigned to fight bureaucratic excess and corruption. He had served on a one year contract, which ended Monday.

In his report, Mr. Thornburgh criticised personnel practices that lead to "too much 'deadwood' doing too little work and too few good staff members doing too much."

He said U.N. managers lack the power to reward superior performance and to sanction substandard performance. He reminded Dr. Ghali of his recommendation to appoint an inspector general as a permanent watchdog against abuse.

The U.N. Department of Administration and Management, where he was assigned to fight bureaucratic excess and corruption. He had served on a one year contract, which ended Monday.

In his report, Mr. Thornburgh criticised personnel practices that lead to "too much 'deadwood' doing too little work and too few good staff members doing too much."

He said U.N. managers lack the power to reward superior performance and to sanction substandard performance. He reminded Dr. Ghali of his recommendation to appoint an inspector general as a permanent watchdog against abuse.

The U.N. Department of Administration and Management, where he was assigned to fight bureaucratic excess and corruption. He had served on a one year contract, which ended Monday.

In his report, Mr. Thornburgh criticised personnel practices that lead to "too much 'deadwood' doing too little work and too few good staff members doing too much."

following the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

The Congress will meet on March 10 to discuss his proposals for sharing power with the legislative branch, he said.

If accepted by Congress, the proposals will "solve the constitutional deadlock we are in," Mr. Yeltsin said.

If Congress refuses to accept the agreement, he vowed to appeal directly to the people.

Mr. Yeltsin first proposed the nationwide referendum in December, after the Congress rejected his choice for prime minister, reformist Yegor Gaidar.

In a speech Sunday to the Congress' influential Civic Union bloc of industrialists, Mr. Yeltsin criticised the Congress for trying to become a parallel government and appropriating presidential powers.

Meanwhile, top defence officials from six former Soviet republics have recommended forming a NATO type military council to ensure collective security and defence among members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an official said Monday.

The six also will encourage the other four CIS states to join the collective Security Council, Commonwealth Military Commander

Yevgeny Shaposhnikov told reporters.

The council initially would be comprised of the presidents and prime ministers of the six countries, as well as two Commonwealth Defence and Foreign Ministry representatives, Mr. Shaposhnikov said.

The Supreme Command of Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would be directly subordinate to the council, making it resemble the structure of the NATO alliance, Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

The former Red Army has split up — with Russia inheriting the bulk of its forces — since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Commonwealth military that followed in its place has been struggling to restore some coordination among the 10 CIS members.

"Our structures at present are not equal to the task of ensuring collective security and defence," Marshal Shaposhnikov told a news conference. "Therefore, it is important to make sure these questions are dealt with not only by military structures, but also by political ones."

The defence officials and Marshal Shaposhnikov met Saturday

to draft the proposal. The plan is subject to approval by the six heads of state, all of whom signed a collective security agreement last May in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent. It will be submitted for final ratification at the next Commonwealth summit, scheduled for April 28 in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The Commonwealth includes all the former Soviet republics, except Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The original security agreement committed member states to protecting fellow members against aggression, but it was unclear whether it envisioned their involvement in wars such as that between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed province of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"(It) places us in a very complex situation," Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

He said the proposal also calls for a unified armed forces, which in peacetime would "function in line with plans drawn up by the respective defence ministries, and in wartime, with plans drawn up by the collective security bodies."

He said the structure of the new council would resemble

NATO's, but that Russia and Uzbekistan had suggested following one aspect of the Warsaw Pact model: Putting Russia's defence minister in charge of the unified armed forces. This would denote Marshal Shaposhnikov to Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's deputy.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said that although he wanted Russia to play a dominant role in the new council, he added the four other defence officials preferred the NATO model, where the Commonwealth commander answers only to the council of the heads of state.

"We cannot reduce the role of Russia, but we cannot also organise all structures to meet its interests only," Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

"I think nobody will argue against the fact that Russia is the foundation, the basis of the entire arrangement in the military field and so on. I think there would be nothing bad if Russia acts as the guarantor, provided the interests of the guarantor and the guarantee coincide," he said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said he also has suggested establishing an "inter-state corporation" to produce military equipment for the council members.

COLUMN

N. Zealand mothers ordered to guard babies

AUCKLAND (R) — New mothers at an Auckland hospital were instructed Tuesday not to leave their babies unattended after a five-day-old boy was snatched from his cradle. James Collins was taken while his mother was out of her room at Auckland's National Women's Hospital Monday. Gaye Tozzar, manager of women's health at the hospital, said mothers would be told to take their babies to the hospital nursery if they were leaving their room. Police said they were continuing their search for the baby.

McCartney arrives in Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Paul McCartney arrived Monday for the start of a "world tour" during which he will play songs from his days as a Beatle as well as 1970s hits as soloist and with his 1970s band, Wings. McCartney will have his first concert in Perth Friday followed by shows in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Auckland, New Zealand, before leaving for the United States and Canada and finally, Europe. He has played only twice before in Australia — with the Beatles in 1966 and with wings in 1975. In a statement released by his Australian publicist last week, McCartney said his world tour would draw attention to environmental issues, such as the hole in the ozone layer. He said voters worldwide should support politicians committed to cleaning up the environment. "Politics should go beyond the matters of one country, politics should be addressed to the planet," he said.

Topless protesters acquitted

KITCHENER, Ontario (AP) — Five women arrested for baring their breasts at a rally were found innocent Monday of committing an indecent act. "This was within the community's standard of tolerance," Judge Katie McGowan said of the women's conduct at a demonstration at a city park in July. The five women were among 1,000 people protesting the conviction of Owen Jacob, a student who was charged a year earlier for walking topless in the town of Guelph. Judge McGowan said she based her decision on witnesses who testified Canadians could tolerate the sight of a woman's bare breasts in public and also on a police videotape. "No one shown on the video appears to be offended or titillated," she told the provincial division of Ontario court.

Burglars take \$1.68 million in furs

HONG KONG (AP) — Burglars snatched more than 13 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.68 million) worth of mink furs from a warehouse near the Chinese border, police reported Monday. Police said a warehouse manager reported the theft after discovering the padlock to the building in Lok Ma Chau had been broken over the weekend. No arrests have been made. It wasn't immediately clear whether the minks were raw materials or ready-to-wear garments. Nor was it clear whether the haul was the largest-ever theft of furs in this British colony, the world's biggest producer of fur garments.

This story must have been leaked

LOS ANGELES (R) — What's in a name? Quite a bit, says a group representing Americans of Welsh origin. The organisation sued some of the United States' major news organisations in a bid to have them stop using the word "welsh" as a derogatory term meaning "to fail to pay a wage or debt or to fulfil an obligation." The Robin Hood Foundation and the Welsh American/TWYM Sion Cati Red Dragon Legal Defence Fund sued such publications as Newsweek and the Wall Street Journal, saying such a fighting word "should be declared...out-of-protection of constitutional free speech protection."

Helped out of a jam

TOKYO (R) — A drunk who slipped and trapped his head between a railway carriage and the station platform owed his life to 50 fellow passengers who tilted the wagon. The 66-year-old man fell into the gap as the train began in Osaka Sunday, a spokesman for West Japan Railway said. The driver hit the brakes, wedging the man's head against the platform, and a passenger who tried to pull him gave up when he cried out in pain. About 50 passengers then formed a rescue team to tilt the carriage. The man escaped with minor cuts.